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GS-1

Political philosophies (e.g. communism, capitalism, socialism) and their effect on society

Q-“With the collapse of communism, liberal democracy stood alone as the only form of government compatible with socio-economic modernity.” Critically comment.

With the end of the Second World War in 1945 began a long battle between the two major economic ideologies of communism and capitalism. The Cold War was but a manifestation of the battle of these ideologies with the USA and Western Countries strongly supporting capitalism and the USSR being the most vocal supporter of Communism.

With the disintegration of the USSR in 1991 came the end of the Cold War era. It sounded the death-knell for socialism or communism as an ideology and thus began the practice of extolling the virtues of capitalism and its relationship with democracy. A capitalist economy could only exist in a democratic setup, as it would give the people of the country the right to own the means of production, and minimal government control.

As a result, liberal democracy took the forefront. With changing socio-economic beliefs all over the world, communism and socialism could never stage a comeback in the modern world. Many countries undertook reforms to open up their markets to private players in the early 1990s. India, too, moved from being a partly closed economy to a new era of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation under the New Economic Policy.

However, recent events, such as the US sub-prime crisis and the Eurozone crisis have shown that the capitalistic system, in association with liberal democracy, is not infallible. Very few regulations, leading to a laissez faire economy, too, is not good
for an increasingly globalising world. It causes more inequalities and concentration of wealth in a few hands.

Thus, what is needed is a proper balance between socialism and capitalism, within the framework of a liberal democracy.

Geographical features and location

Q-Write a note on the causes, mechanism and importance of retreating monsoons in India.
Monsoon are periodic airmasses that undergo seasonal reversal in direction. This reversal, termed as retreating monsoon, is a definite meteorological phenomena that has argo-economic significance.

CAUSES
The immediate causes of retreating monsoon are:
(a) Shifting of ITCZ below equator.
(b) Strengthening of westerly jets south of Himalayas.

MECHANISM
Monsoon follow the apparent movement of sun. ITCZ that lie over the Indian landmass start shifting southward following the sun movement. As a result the low pressure trough also shift southward. This reverses the direction of South-West monsoon to North-East monsoon (termed as retreating monsoon) towards the low pressure trough lying over Australia.

IMPORTANCE
(a) Causes rainfall in eastern coastal parts of Tamil Nadu.
(b) May lead to occasional cyclonic intrusions along eastern coast.
(c) Slight showers are beneficial for crops of spices.
(d) Tropical semievergreen forest found only on the eastern coast owe its existence to these showers.
(d) Retreat of monsoon prevents the spoiling of Kharif crop that is ready to harvest, from untimely rain.

GS-2

Social Sector & Social Services (health, education, human resources - issues in development, management)

Q-Write a note on the objectives and importance of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM)

Answer

-The Department of AYUSH has established NAM with a motto of ‘delivering health for all’ and to coordinate different programmes related to NRHM (National Rural Health Mission), hospitals, dispensaries and public health programmes under different streams of Indian medicine.

OBJECTIVES

-To give enhanced support for all AYUSH dispensaries and hospitals for infrastructure, drugs, personnel and in service training for medical officers and paramedics.
-To release enhanced AYUSH funds to NRHM mission funds to an AYUSH health society, structured like the state level NRHM sponsored health society.
-To provide sustained availability of quality raw materials for AYUSH systems of medicine and
-To improve AYUSH education through enhancement in number of upgraded educational institutions.

IMPORTANCE

-India possess an unmatched heritage represented by its ancient systems of medicines like AYUSH whose positive features like their diversity, flexibility, accessibility, affordability and growing economic value have great potential to make them providers of health care that large sections of people need.
- Under NAM, special focus will be given for specific needs of areas and for allocation of higher resources in their annual plans.
- The proposed mission will address the gaps in health services through supporting efforts of state/UT governments in vulnerable and far-flung areas.
- This will derive the goals of national health sector for management of health conditions set in the 12th five year plan.

Q-Write a critical note on food adulteration problem in India, its effects on health and government’s response to it.
Answer)

The food adulteration starts from the very first stage of food production chain at the farm level and poultries in terms of overuse of pesticides and antibiotics respectively. The Species which are very important part of India food habits are adulterated, for example lead chromate used to adulterate turmeric. Some other examples are Carbide is used to ripe the mango faster, adulterated cottage cheese and clarified butter are common. Even the street food and restaurants are using low grade materials and cooking in unhygienic conditions to make the food unhealthy to reaping petty benefits.

Some of the health hazards are as follows:
1) It can cause several diseases like Cancer, Liver disorder, Diarrhea etc.
2) Leads to malnutrition and accumulation of poison in body
3) Accidental adulteration (Bihar Mid-Day Meal case) can cause death
4) Lead Chromate used in Turmeric can cause anemia, paralysis, brain damage and abortions

Some of the steps taken by Government to check the adulteration
1) Enacted Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The item falls under concurrent list, the GOI have taken the responsibility to itself for bringing uniformity in food standards
2) Its objective is to plug in the loopholes, ensure stringent punishments and involve civil society in the effort
3) It ensures periodical training to staff including inspectors
4) Creating consumer awareness through various channels
5) provisioned labels like ISI, Agromark to ensure safe food standards
6) Ensures survey cum monitoring activities regularly
7) It supports the central food laboratories

India shouldn’t forget the Cooking oil Fiasco in late 1990s and ensure tough measures and its implementation to make the food safe and healthy.

**Q- Critically comment on pressing problems that are plaguing India’s higher education and its related institutions.**

**Answer**

The pressing problems plaguing India’s higher education are:

(a) **Institutional Decay:** Though the number of universities have multiplied, education has become a business and hence lost its enlightenment ethos.

(b) **Institutional capacity:** Shortage of staff, Adhoc teacher and burgeoning student load have crippled every educational institution. These vulnerabilities have politicised education.

(c) **Political manuvering:** Political appointments to propagate mystical and political ideologies have shifted the focus from education to politics.

(d) **Lack of opportunities:** India has stucked in middle class trap where quaternary sector has failed to evolve. As a result the corresponding opportunities in quaternary sector are shrinking.

(e) **Overseas attraction:** With liberal atmosphere to develop intellectual faculties, overseas destinations are offering not only notional but also substantive opportunities.

(f) **Institutional autonomy:** Plethora of organisations like UGC, MoHRD etc inhibits the innovative potential of universities. DU withdrawl of FYUP or the lack of concensus on MOCC are a case to the point.

(g) **Socio-Economic conditions:** Poor background of students make earning a prime
objective of most student. Hence higher education is a luxury to afford and that too mostly to avail scholarships of NET and JRF.

As a result India fails to give even a single institution among the top 200 list of institutions and our students are contributing the 2nd largest overseas segment.

Government Policies & Interventions for development of various sectors (issues in their design, implementation)

Q-Recently governments at the Centre are trying to introduce bills which want to regulate the real estate sector. Examine why there is a need to regulate the real estate sector.
The previous UPA government had failed to pass the Real Estate Bill and now the new NDA government is trying to introduce the same bill with some additional provisions.

Why there is a need to regulate the Real Estate sector?

As of now, there are no regulations for the Real Estate sector. Considering the below discussed issues, regulation for this sector is the need of the hour.

1. Rapid urbanisation has led to unplanned unsustainable constructions resulting in environmental and traffic issues.

2. Rise in prices of land and construction materials have made it almost impossible for the lower income group people to own a house resulting in development of slums.

3. There is no transparency in land buying and selling giving rise to large scale corruption and usage of black money.

4. There is no central online depository on land records which is resulting into fraud buying and selling of land and buildings.

5. Due to lack of regulations, many fraud builders are in the business, who are not delivering the agreed quality housing within stipulated time.
6. Due to lacunae in the system, sometimes builders launch projects without due clearance from the concerned departments creating problems for the buyers afterwards.

In reality is it feasible to regulate the Real Estate sector?

Something is better than nothing, when we don't have any regulation for the Real Estate sector, at least the discussed bill will check the malpractices to some extent.

Q-In India, Whistle-blowing itself is fraught with risks and a serious debate is needed to assess the virtues of maintaining anonymity of the complainant. In the light of recent developments and introduction of a bill on the matter, critically comment on the statement.

A recent order of Supreme Court, where the list of visitors (connected with 2G Scam) at CBI director has been asked for, has a serious ailment, it asks to reveal the identity of the informer. Such order would seriously deter any whistle blower in future.

The recently passed act by the last Government is itself flawed which asks the informer to reveal his identity on voluntary basis in matters of Public Interest, if they are not willing to reveal, they should provide all documentary evidence in support of the complain. These provision creates to much of risk for whistle blower along with the burden of providing details.

We have seen cases in past where not only an Engineer even after requesting to keep his identity safe in Golden Quadrilateral road Mafia case been killed but IAS and IPS officers have also been victimized and murdered.

Even though the whistle blower bill is a welcome step towards timely stoppage of corruption and wrong doing but the provisions are half hearted. We should learn from USA which had kept the secret of the whistle blower intact for 30 years in case where the president himself was involved.
Q-“There is an immediate need to repeal conflicting colonial era laws regulating citizenship in India.” Critically examine why.

Answer)

The New Government have shown the initiative towards revoking the old archaic colonial time laws to makes the law book more precise and cleaner for faster delivery of justice.

The laws regulating to citizenship in India should also be looked into. The old laws for citizenship are as follows

1) The Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920
2) The registration of Foreigners Act, 1939
3) The Foreigners Act, 1946

The new laws for the same areas are

1) The Passports Act, 1967
2) The citizenship Act, 1955
3) The Overseas citizenship of India Scheme, 2005

We can see the need for revocation the old law on the below two comparison:

OLD LAWS ARE ANTI DEMOCRATIC

The Passport Act 1967: this law is with regard to issue of passports and travel documents which provides safeguards in procedures involving the variations, impounding and revocation of passports, with rights to appeal to aggrieved persons with regards to offences and penalties levied under this act

The passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and Registration of foreigners Act, 1939: Provides absolute and unlimited power to remove or summarily deport a person from India without following the due process of law

Clearly the above provision in the old acts are not only anti to the new laws provisions but also anti-democratic in nature. These old laws also provide the power
of house arrest, detention, solitary confinement etc. which is against the Fundamental rights

ON PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN

Citizenship Act 1955 and rule 1956: they provide clarity on the determination of nationality including “Person of India Origin” and “Overseas Citizen of India” and their privileges

The Foreigners Act are neither clear on this nor matches up to the current needs

Revoking those laws will provide the opportunity to PIO and OCI to reconnect with India along with holding our Fundamental values of democracy

Q- “Sections in the Indian Succession Act, 1925 weave an archaic principle of giving superior status to man in access to and owning property.”
Examine

Answer)
The Indian Succession Act 1925 is applicable to all Indian community except Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs (all of them are covered under Hindu Succession Act) and Muslims (Muslim Personal Law)

This law is Gender biased as the section 42 of this act mentions that in case of the intestate (without writing a bill) death of the son with no lineal descendants (children, grandchildren), his property excluding his widow’s share should go entirely to his father. His mother even if she is alive will not get a share.

The next section mentions in case the father is already dead, the mother would not get the entire property but she will have to share it with the deceased siblings (in case of siblings are also dead then their children). Only in case of no siblings, nephew, son, daughter etc. mother would get the full share.
The latest law commission has recommended that the property should be equally divided among parents and if the father is already dead the entire property should go to mother.

**India and its Neighbourhood (relations)**

**INDIA- CHINA**

**Q-The Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the Boundary Question between India and China was the closest possible solution to which both countries arrived at to resolve their border dispute. Critically examine.**

India China border dispute has to be settled, before any deep bilateral engagement can be contemplated. Keeping this in mind, both sides signed the said agreements in 2005.

By this agreement, both sides agreed to

a. Not let dispute affect other areas of bilateral relations.

b. To settle the dispute through political consultation, by compromising with each other in the interest of reasonable concerns of each other.

c. To take into account all relevant factors like history, geography, settlements and practical difficulties while finding a solution

d. To respect status quo until final settlement

This agreement had following advantages

a. Irrevocable commitment to political settlement

b. To decouple border dispute from trade

c. To allow for compromising stated positions. ‘Jingoism’ was expunged

d. Assured peace till final settlement

Needless to say, this level of agreement had never had happened before the two countries. After 2008, the relations started to sour, Chinese incursions in the Chumbi valley increased once again and reached a low point in last year’s Ladakh stand off.
Therefore, this agreement was the highpoint in the border talks and the current decision to go back to it for a settlement is a welcome sign.

**Development Processes & Development industry (role of NGOs, SHGs, groups & associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders)**

**Q-Examine how NGOs can contribute to the development of primary education sector in India.**

NGOs are one among the organisations which are contributing silently for the growth and development of post Colonial India. Their impact in the building the country cannot be ignored due to the efforts of various local regional national and multinational organisations in diverse areas of societal problems.

NGOs can contribute to the key education sector which is responsible for quick and rapid growth. Various ways in which NGOs can contribute in this sector are as below.

1. Volunteering for different programs initiated by national and local governments in making students and parents understand the importance of education in illiterate areas.
2. Raising money through various activities like sport competitions, awareness campaigns etc and can invest in construction and maintenance of schools.
3. Recruiting teachers from various sectors(engineering , medicine etc) who can contribute part time to the education of marginalised sectors. Arranging weekend programs for the courses to poor sections.
4. Distribution of books, stationary, clothes, Construction of toilets etc.
5. Creating enthusiasm and encouragement among the dropouts in rural areas by promoting interesting quiz, cultural campaigns and convey that learning is fun.
6. Coordinating with corporates in distribution of services needed for rural schools as part of CSR initiatives.
Important International institutions, agencies, for a (structure, mandate)

Q-Examine the importance of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea for India.

ANSWER)

The 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea is a declaration signed between China and ASEAN nation for peaceful navigation, following international standards and UNCLOS, dispute resolution through peaceful means, self-restraints from aggression. This declaration carries its importance from the fact that South China sea not only carries potential economic resources but also is home to many disputed islands where China is in loggerheads with these ASEAN nations. The recent Chinese and Vietnam vessels minor conflicts during oil exploration activity is clearly a violation of this declaration.

The importance of this declaration lies on four major fronts for India
1) Oil Exploration: With India and Vietnam are collaborating on Oil Exploration in South China sea, its very important that China and ASEAN nations adheres to this declaration to avoid any disputes
2) India ASEAN ties: With India and ASEAN countries are trying to foster better economic activities, it will lead to more ships plying and commercial flights. Hence this declaration will ensure less interruptions in the transport
3) Look East Policy: India is also forming many economical tie ups with the East Asian Countries hence its important that China should not intervene
4) Maritime Safety: with growing trade volume its important to provide safety to maritime trade from pirates and any nations aggression.

With all these provisions, India is not wrong in holding the importance of this declaration while its visit to Vietnam.
Q-Examine how the presence of China in the Indian ocean is growing. Should India be concerned? Comment.

Answer)

China have increased its presence in Indian ocean slowly and steadily, they have done it through the below mechanisms

1) Ports in Countries around Indian Ocean: They are developing sea ports in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar to increase their presence around India and Indian ocean

2) Maritime Silk Route: With USA dominating their position in Pacific Ocean and economic condition in Europe in doldrums, China have proposed the new Maritime Silk Route, which will cover areas from Singapore strait till Europe via Indian Ocean (major presence and activity).

It is not only providing China the Geo Political edge over India but also securing its resource supply from Africa.

The growth in presence of China in Indian Ocean is a big concern for India due to

1) India is getting surrounded by series of China made ports in India’s neighborhood= string of pearls theory

2) Indian business sentiments might be over taken by Chinese due to MSR

3) India’s disadvantage against China on Mountain Corps could have been compensated by advantage over India ocean but with China growth in the region, it seems extremely difficult now.

Chinese activity in the region is going to be a serious concern and major challenge for India in the coming days, however, India instead of staying aloof on MSR, should join it and reap the benefit as well. On the parallel track it should work on fostering its relations with neighbors and use forums like BRICS to keep check on any negative intention of China

The outcome of Scotland’s referendum for independence, regardless of yes or no, would be a historic turning point. Examine why.

Answer)
After more than three centuries of togetherness, Scotland will face a referendum to whether remain with England anymore or not. The pro-independence and pro-union movements are pursued, inter alia, by two main groups – Yes Scotland and Better Together respectively.

Pro-independence group emphasises in its support many disabilities faced by Scotland due to England’s policies. From the late 1970s, the liberalising Thactherism has caused the decline in manufacturing & heavy industry and the ownership of industries mostly shifted towards overseas countries.

This has resulted in high unemployment, poor social security, poverty, declining health indicators. Also, there is growing inequality in Scotland’s economy both internally – Rich vs Poor and with regard to mainland England. Therefore, a self-determinism is required to set these anomalies straight.

The Better Together group argues that since these are the adverse effects of globalisation, a united and bigger State will be in a better position to resist the pressure of global capital. Also, opting for independence will have adverse impact on Scotland’s defences.

Regardless of which group wins the referendum on September 18, the event carries a significant import for the whole world. It will be a crucial influence on the present world questions of Kurd Autonomy, Ukrainian issues and the like.

This will force the governments all over the world to value democratic norms, maintain social-equity and have respect for devolution and decentralisation to make the governance inclusive.

This will also lead to a rethink on the current economic policies being followed which favours the capital over labour. Thus, this issue is surely going to be a historic turning point.
Apart from diplomacy, trade can be a major factor in normalizing relations between India and Pakistan. Critically examine. Historically whether its war or colonialism it has been pursued for the Political Supremacy or the Economic benefits. These two are major pillars in International Relations even today. India and Pakistan are facing bad political relations for verity of reasons since Partition and latently from the time of idea of Pakistan. Many of our Prime Ministers have tried time and again to use diplomacy to foster better relations but every time the effort has been thwarted by insurgency, cease far violations and Wars.

In such circumstances, Trade can be the blessing in Disguise to help bring the relation on the track of normalcy. However, there are several constraints which needs to be removed before this tool can be used to better the relations.

Currently, the trade volume with Pakistan is very low, even lower than Bangladesh (which is a smaller country compared to Pakistan). The trade is happening mostly through the Wagah Border. This small volume is also getting disrupted at times, as recently took place the case of trucks seizure in POK.

A few steps need to be taken on priority like opening Munabao-Khokhrapar crossing, which can be used for trade of petroleum products, chemicals, solar energy etc. Pakistan should provide India Non Discriminatory Market Access to trade many more items. Pakistan should also provide MFN status to India and remove the negative list of 1000 items. There Agriculture and automobile lobby should be addressed against any fear of losing business.

The New Government in Pakistan is facing internal problems, India should not only help stabilize their democracy but also convince for better economic prosperity for masses to make democracy sustainable.
Q-Write a critical note on the proposed BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) corridor and its benefits to India.
The Proposed BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) if came into existence, it would be one of the largest free trade areas along with numerous other benefits. It will not only provide the direct road linkage between India and China through the other two countries but also greater market access, reduction in trade barriers, better trade facilitation, investment in infrastructure, joint exploration and development of mineral.

Advantage
1) China: It will help provide access to alternate market and investment destination amid European crisis and USA domination in Pacific region. Its much isolated Yunan Province will get the economic link.
2) India: India's export, manufacturing specially textile industry, North Eastern region development would get boost.
3) Bangladesh and Myanmar would be directly linked to the region two largest economy

However, it will also create certain challenges for India like security and defence against Chinese expansionist mindset and can become a dumping ground for Chinese cheap products. India need to be cautious yet not laggard in pursuing incremental steps towards its Look East Policy.

Q-Critically examine why civil nuclear co-operations are crucial for India’s energy security.
India's current energy composition is highly skewed towards Fossil fuels coal and oil, while Hydro, wind, solar and Nuclear are very low. India need around 21000 MW of additional energy (predicted using tools like MARCAL and Business as Usual tools) by 2021 and coal seemingly would be the largest contributor even then.

With growing emphasis on climate protection and reducing fossil fuel consumption along with dependence on fossil fuel import, there is an urgent to need look for other avenues. Solar, Hydro, wind and Nuclear energy holds the promises for future. But,
Hydro energy can’t be developed beyond a limit as there are only few potential rivers (that also with environmental concerns), even though India is trying to foster international relations with Bhutan and Nepal to secure in Hydro energy basket but the real potential lies with Solar and Nuclear energy. Under JNSM, the Government is focused on adding 1000 MW per year, similarly developing the wind energy at all possible sites but they need more technology advancement before being fully harvested.

In such situation Civil Nuclear Co-operations holds a promising future, and by building more reactors with foreign cooperation we can meet the energy need without harming the environment. This will also lead our path towards becoming global leader in energy once we achieve the higher generation plants and would be able to exploit huge Thorium reserves on the Kerala coast.

But, India need to be cautious against any nuclear disaster like 3 miles island or Bhopal Gas tragedy (Supreme court order on safety measures on Kundakulam Plants is welcome step), along with clarity on its nuclear separation programs.

Q-Examine the recent agreements and their importance, signed between India and China during the President’s of China’s visit to India in September 2014.

Recent agreement between India and China is a cocktail of 15 MoU with a distinctive flavour which is booth soothing and tangy. The agreements span over a motely set of areas that include:

(a) Cultural and people contact: MoU on route for Mansarover, cooperation of cultural institutions amd book fairs aims to deepen the people to people contact with due respect to local cultures. This is vital track-2 instrument to allay mutual suspicion and maintain peaceful relation.
(b) Economy and Trade: Mou on cooperation in Custom, sister relationship between Shangai and Mumbai, pharma standardisation and approval of minutes of joint economic group brings us closer to seamless economic integration. On the flip side, investment commitments of just $20 billion in five years when trade deficit accounts to $35 million annually came as bitter pill against heightened expectation of $100 billion commitment.

(c) Infrastructure: Mou captured the India's hotspot. With MoU on railway investments and setting up of Industrial parks, China addressed the pressing infrastructure demand of India.

(d) Strategic partnership: China agreed to support India's bid for UNSC permanent seat but put a caveat of resolving LAC first. This caveat will push the long pending acrimonious issue for early resolution. MoU on open Space further seal an emerging area of security from dragging into dispute.

Though the agreement laid foundation for the peaceful and tranquil relation, Chinese caveats makes imperative for India to assume swing state role in emerging Asia-Pacific order to leverage its diplomatic ability to drive India-China relations.

Q-Examine the role being played by the UN agencies in combating poverty and hunger across the world.

- 854 million people around the world are chronically hungry, the great majority of which 96% live in developing countries, 75% live in rural areas, 60% are women and almost 18% are children under the age of five.
- The highest number of chronically hungry people is in Asia and the highest rate of under nutrition is in Africa.
- In many instances, people suffer from hunger not only as a result of insufficient food supplies, but also due to lack of access and purchasing power.

ROLE OF UN AGENCIES

- Three Rome based agencies work together with different complementary mandates and utilize a twin track approach in their collaboration. They are WFP, IFAD and
FAO.
-WFP has a focus on feeding hungry people and meeting their special needs, while IFAD and FAO focus more on fostering economic growth and increasing long term agricultural productivity.
-Some notable areas of collaboration include the International Alliance against Hunger, the Food Security Theme Groups and the Hunger Mapping System.
-UNESCO addresses poverty eradication by strengthening education's role and combating challenges of quality, access and equity in education across the world to achieve both the Millennium Development Goals and EFA (Education For All) goals.
-ILO helps in overcoming poverty through productive employment and decent work for income generation in Least Developed Countries.
-UNCTAD aids in poverty reduction by developing entrepreneurship using programmes like EMPRETEC in 27 countries.
-UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) encourages women's participation in poverty alleviation and sustained economic growth, including through the initiatives of migrant women.
-UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) provides innovative business solutions for poverty reduction.

Thus UN agencies play a great role in combating poverty and hunger across the world.

Q-"Federalism is a device to ensure participative role for the representatives of the States constituting the nation, in the decision-making process." In the light of the provisions of the National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill, 2014 (NJAC Bill), critically comment on the statement
Federalism forms the part of basic structure of the constitution as envisioned by Supreme Court which cannot be amended or undermined.

Federalism is not just devolving some powers to the states, It is giving a voice to the states in the democratic set up and respecting this voice by giving stake in decision making process.
The recent National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill (2014) proposes replacement of collegium with a much transparent commission involving both executive and judiciary. Apart from issues like veto powers, opaque qualifications of two eminent persons which can be dealt by consultations, there is a more pressing issue of federalism.

This system of appointment of judges takes away the voice of the states in the appointment of judges of state high courts. Though the Governor, Chief Justice of High Court and its top advocates are consulted in the process, their opinion is not binding on the commission. This makes the NJAC completely appear a centralist institution. The bill also seeks constitutional amendments to certain provisions in the constitution regarding Supreme Court and High Courts which needs to be amended under Article 368(2) of Constitution (Absolute Majority + Special Majority + Ratification by at least half of the states).

Hence, this is an opportunity for the states to ponder over this issue to ensure federalism in letter and spirit in all the cases it is entitled to in accordance with the constitution.

Q-Is there a need to revamp social sector schemes sponsored by the central government? Examine why with examples.

Any government scheme is a governance measure to address the prevailing socio-economic conditions. As the scenario changes, so the need for revamping schemes originates, to remain in syn with the scenario.

NEEDS FOR REVAMPING SCHEMES
(a) Relevance: To make scheme address the changed socio-economic condition by adding new goals and removing redundant ones eg MGNREGA needs revamping to be more realistic.
(b) Reduce Duplication: Many schemes often have nuance variation in their objectives. As they address the similar set of goals their mearger improves targeting eg RSBY, AABY,IGNOPS.
(c) Administrative convinience: Similar schemes work under the oversight of
different ministries creating confusion over monitoring and reporting activities eg AABY under MoF and IGNOPS under MoRD.
(d) Cost consideration: Duplicate schemes increase cost without bringing any effective change.
(e) Populist politics: Schemes often announce in heat of election suffer from poor allocation and stagnacy making their working impracticable.
(f) Monitoring: Single scheme makes monitoring effective thus improving outcomes.
(f) Honouring nationals: Schemes are often instruments to award eminent person who missed national awards and to rekindle their contributions among masses.

Revamping also poses certain challenges like redrafting and identifying relevant goals, training staff who are accustomed to earlier schemes along with technical problems. Thus revamping though appears as solution but its actual efficacy depends on the judiciousness of revamping exercise.

Q-“The Greater Mekong Subregion economic corridors initiative offers a model that could, and should, be duplicated in South Asia, another Asian sub-region waiting to emerge from its patch of darkness.” Examine.
The wise learn from experience of others, the mediocre from their own’. South Asia should be wise and learn from GMS.
The possibilities that the proposed economic corridor opens up in GMS apply to South Asia as well
a. Integration and market access to economies hitherto disparate
b. Development of hinterlands
c. Opening up a new power market
d. Industrial corridor, energy trade and other commerce spanning all national players involved
e. All this giving a better chance to prevailing regional peace
Therefore this model should be emulated.
This could be emulated because the geographic, economic and political situation of South Asia is comparable to GMS
a. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan are geographically contiguous. Sri
Lanka can be accessed by coastal shipping
b. Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan are landlocked and need port access
c. All countries sorely need economic development
d. Nepal and Bhutan have huge hydral power potential
But the project has many road blocks to overcome in South Asia
a. Generally acrimonious multilateral relation due to perception of India as a ‘big brother’
b. Fratricidal relations between India and Pakistan
c. Terrorism and insurgency may sabotage projects. But all players actually benefit from this initiative.
If Pakistan can be convinced that this will positively affect its economy, and a combined effort to hem in insurgencies can be launched, this ambitious project is a go.

Q-"India needs to revisit its overall climate policy and the priority it attaches to it". Critically examine why.

India, an agricultural economy with climate ranging from tropical to alpine, is potentially more vulnerable to climate change than any other nation. Hence it needs a policy that reduces its vulnerability and secures its interest in global climate negotiations.

DOMESTIC SCENARIO
With NAPCC in place India made a commendable initial effort to address climate change. But, its actualisation presents a moribund state of affairs. Forest covers increased only statistically, R&D and investment in energy efficiency is poor and we still rely on conventional energy sources. NDMA setup to address critical situations fails more often.

GLOBAL SCENARIO
Our cherished principles like CBDR, polluter pay principle etc have purchased us enough time, but our ouduracy has taken sheen out of our climate change diplomacy. Its not far that we need to be flexible to purchase global climate funds
and green technology. With 2015 approaching, a target based protocol will definitely put pressure on India.

INDIA’s APPROACH
(a) Revamp NAPCC to make it realistic, achievable and in sync with the need of hour.
(b) Bring flexibility while addressing domestic vulnerability in global climate negotiations to secure green technology and green fund.
(c) Enhance domestic R&D on climate change adaptation with global collaboration.
(d) Link schemes with outcomes and fix accountability to make tangible gains.

Climate change is pressing on the survivability and sustainability of India. Thus, a pragmatic approach in sync with future requirements is the need of hour.

Q-Examine how state governments mobilize resources to fund their various programs and day to day administrative machinery.
State Govt get its most of the resources from the Taxation. There are many types of taxation; consumption tax, value added tax, corporate income taxes, entertainment taxes and stamp duties etc. Fines and penalty cash payments for vices and criminal acts go to state govt fund.

Lease or Sale of government property, weapons, land, government facilities etc provide resources to state fund. Few Government linked corporations or companies (PSUs) make money just like any private corporation. Confiscation and Escheat of property when an individual dies without a will and legal heirs also contribute to state fund.

Selling of bonds to citizens, Government Pension schemes, small savings programmes etc channelize public fund through banks to govt which can use to develop infrastructure or for social sector schemes. Many states get funds from other countries and international agencies like World Bank, United Nations in form of aid. However, loans can’t be taken from international agencies without permission of central govt.
Central govt provides some funds as aid to help state govt in their development works and in emergency situations. States also take some loans from the central govt. These also gain interests from loans given to other states/economies.

Q-"There is a need to monitor the functioning of session courts which deal with rape and child abuse cases in India." Critically comment.

Rape and Child abuse are a bloat on humanity that deserves extreme sensitivity during court trials. In-camera trials were adopted henceforth to maintain confidentiality to reduce stigma, trauma and voyeuristic intrusions of media. These measure together with Sakshi and Vishaka guideline offer a level of protection. Yet, the sacroscent functioning of court sometimes betray the whole purpose.

(a) Instead of victim friendly approach the gruelling examination often favour the needs of advocates and convicts.
(b) Presence of lady judge is not a sureity for senstivity. Often lack of awareness of upper court guidelines like prevention of accused from facing convicts is neglected.
(c) Court rooms and their ecosystem appears oppressive to victims especially childrens.
(d) In-camera trials prevents a social oversight and audit that creates requestive pressure on judges to maintain a congenial environment.
(e) Shortage of judicial staff and infrastructure for seperate court rooms often makes mockery of privacy concerns.

There is a need to reform court ecosystem that are pliable with needs of victim especially of children. Awareness and training of judges to modify their attitudes and make them aware of standard practices together with allowing civil society representation in in-camera trials, with suitable check will ensure a congenial atmosphere and a fair trial.
GS-3

Indian Economy (issues planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development, employment)

Q-What do you understand by fiscal consolidation? Examine the various ways in which the union government does this.

Fiscal consolidation means the steps taken by the Government to reduce the To pursue fiscal consolidation the Government has to reduce the expenditure and increase the receipts along with reducing market borrowings. The Government can take the following steps

1) Subsidy: This is one of the major Non Plan expenditure, Government need to reduce extravaganza subsidies along with reducing the leakage
2) Tax Structure Reform: Implementation of GST will help Government earn extra tax revenue, they should also improve on Tax to GDP ratio by effective implementation of Tax payment on time.
3) Improve PSU: PSU is one of the important source for earning revenue for Government, they should improve its performance. Disinvestment is a good strategy, not only it helps in earning money but also makes the PSUs more competitive and performance oriented
4) Recover Black money: With Supreme Court order and SIT in place, if the black money comes back to India, it will help reduce the fiscal deficit significantly
5) Internal Energy Sources: If CBD and shale gas is developed within India along with nuclear energy and solar energy, it will reduce our dependence on costly crude oil expenditure, thus it would help to reduce a major part of export expenditure
6) Defence capabilities: If the defence capabilities can be built internally with best technologies in place, a major non planned expenditure can be reduced along with earning money by exporting
7) FDI: with good policies in place, attracting FDI will help long term money availability in India
8) Austerity measures: The government and government officials should take austerity measures to reduce expenditure

Q-During last 25 years, India’s reforms have been far less impressive when compared with Southeast Asian countries, which have achieved double-digit growth. Critically comment why.

In the past 25 years, post the LPG reforms and liberalisation of 1991, India has shown spectacular growth and made its mark as an economically significant country with strong growth prospects. However, its achievements pale in comparison to other South-East Asian countries which have shown much higher growth rates, often touching double digit improvement.

The main reasons behind this difference in growth are:

1. High unemployment, which prevents a large section of people from contributing to India’s growth story
2. Bureaucratic hurdles and red-tapism which have reduced ease of doing business in India
3. Policy paralysis for better part of last decade which played havoc on India’s efforts to cope up with slowing world economy
4. Lack of technology growth and growth in capacity and number of higher education institutions which has impacted new RnD happening in india
5. Growth has been lop-sided towards IT industry, while manufacturing sector with capacity to form backbone of social inclusion and absorb lower population strata has not been able to grow and generate jobs
6. Heavy imports in gold and crude oil which have increased CAD and weakened financial markets
7. Populist policies aimed at employment(ex. NREGA), food security, PDS etc. suffer form lack of long-term planning and implementation loop-holes preventing generation of economically productive assets. Also, politically-motivated decision making in schemes like MSP has led to economically unviable purchase rates.
8. Inability to resolve differences between social and economic growth leading to stay orders in setting up large projects, like POSCO has led to slow development of
energy resources utilisation and infrastructure

9. Existence of huge black-money market and high corruption, and lack of strong laws to curb them leads to economic weakening of country.
Taking positive steps in controlling these issues has become the need of the hour, in light of global economic downturn, recovering from which is necessary for continuing India’s dynamic growth story.

Q-It is said that ‘swap lines’ should be considered by G-20 countries to mitigate impact of US Federal Reserve’s stimulus rollback. What do you understand by ‘swap lines’? How does Federal Reserve’s rollback affect India’s economy? Examine.

Swap line is a financial contract between two entities, mostly central banks, to handle prevailing liquidity crunch. It allows exchange of currency to check plummeting exchange rates.

SALIENT FEATURES
(a) Bilateral contract between two entities domiciled in different countries.
(b) It's a loan so interest is paid.
(c) Pre defined repurchase option, but can be rolled over post maturity.
(d) Secures plummeting domestic currency by increasing liquidity in market.

Rollback of quantitative easing programme will withdraw the hot money ie FII from the Indian market as investors have greater confidence in USA treasury. This will plummet exchange rates causing detrimental effects on India’s economy which are:
(a) Stiff dollar liquidity in market.
(b) Make imports dearer.
(c) CAD will reach humongous proportion.
(d) Debt servicing ratio will increase as the interest payment bills will rise.
(e) FD will shoot up.
(f) Withdrawal of money will set cascading impact on stock market, perplexing investors, and can trigger financial crises.
(g) Global investments will shrink as market reflects turbulancy. This will inhibit
growth.

(h) At domestic market it will cause run away inflation.

Plummeting exchange rate makes exports attractive, but the subdued global market under which swap lines are made shrinks market. This inhibits any boost to exports.

Swap line thus serve as a symptomatic treatment to check any immediate crises. This is only fruitful if backed by a long term structural measures to put economy on sound footing.

Q-Write a note on challenges faced by the Indian generic drug manufacturers in manufacturing affordable drugs.

Challenges faced by Indian generic drug manufacturers are:

(a) Vehement contest with innovators to secure their market.

(b) Costly patent litigations.

(c) Overseas ban and seizure of generic drugs as happening in European transit routes.

(d) Authorised generic drug licence to monopolise drug market by restricting other generic players in market by innovator companies.

(e) Political lobbying by innovators to gain conducive domestic and international laws (like stringent conditions for compulsory licence regime under WTO).

(f) Non tariff barriers like Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary standards, drug standards etc.

(g) Lack of capital for mass manufacturing to achieve ultra low cost.

(h) lack of support by doctor who follow unethical practice of prescribing non generic drugs under gratifications.

(i) Absence of a centralised drug procurement policy and sporadically developed public pharmacies that support generic drugs.

(j) FDI relaxation in pharmaceutical allowing mergers and overtake of generic manufacturers by innovators.

(k) Behavioural inclination of general patient towards costly drugs as he associates cost with efficacy.

(l) Poor pharmacist who fail yo identify drugs from formula, as generic drugs are sold by formula and not by brand names.
(m) High profits on brands makes pharmacist to push branded drugs in place of generic drugs.

(n) Lack of marketing and rumor market prevents their popularisation.

To address this a holistic approach ranging from litigation reforms to IEC activities to spread awareness and global collaboration to evolve a conducive atmosphere for generic drugs is necessary.

Q-“Redressing gender imbalances in employment could remedy the current climate of sluggish global economic recovery.” Examine with special reference to India.

Global economic recovery is stumbling due to weaknesses on both supply and demand side, and tapping into the human resource pool of unemployed women may be a potential remedy. This is more so for India, because the number of unemployed women are comparatively larger in India.

Educating and employing women to a greater extent can help the economy by

a. Gainful employment will lead to more productivity if other factors of production are supplied

b. Increase in wage employment will increase demand in market

Thus it addresses both supply and demand side challenges.

This benefit will be applicable to India if she can overcome the following challenges

a. The social norm of delegating women to domestic confines

b. Female unemployment is uneducated unemployment. So imparting skill development to women is of utmost concern.

But more mobilization of work force won’t suffice. It has to be buttressed with capital entrepreneurship and conducive policy. Then India, as well as the world can rise.

Proshika and SEVA examples
Food processing and related industries in India (scope & significance, location, upstream-downstream requirements, supply chain management)

Q-Examine the importance of food processing industry to the Indian economy. What measures has government taken to boost this industry? Food processing is vital sector that addresses the demand of emerging Urban culture and middle class. It assumes more importance in agricultural economy of India where 40% post harvest loss is a norm.

IMPORTANCE TO INDIAN ECONOMY
(a) Post harvest lossess: With 40% post harvest loss and pressing food security need to feed a billion, food processing offers solution in term of greater utilisation, nutrition security and easy availability, that cant be ignored.
(b) Urban culture: Hectic lifestyle of middle class is a urban culture that creates demand for processed food to meet paucity of time.
(c) Emerging global market: Food market is moving towards processed food. With poor processing records domestically, the market is still virgin with great opportunities to be captured.
(d) Agrobased industry: Being a agro based industry it offers livelihood protection and mobility to transfer labour from overburdened farming sector.
(e) Economic ancillaries: Employment generation, skill development, forex earning etc are associated benefits with advancement of food processing sector.

To reap this basket of benefits government has launched a 'National Mission on Food Processing' in 2007. It lays a well placed policy to address the emerging challenges to the sector. Mega Food Park scheme is launched to develop supportive infrastructure to give a push to food processing. FSSAI is recently establish to institutionalise standards of food market to retain hygene and match global CODEX, GHP and GMP norms. Various research and development efforts in packaging material and preservatives is supported by goverment. Besides this, tax
subsidies, custom relaxation, credit creation are regular endeavours to address emerging short term challenges.

Food processing is going to be the future of food market. While policy measure address the challenge, there is a need of an oversight autonomous body, dedicated fully to the cause.

**Environmental conservation**

Q-What is coal bed methane? Write a note on its availability in India and its uses.
Coal bed methane is a natural gas trapped within coal matrix in a coal mine.

**PROPERTIES**
(a) Contains mostly methane hence a clean fuel.
(b) Negligible quantities of heavier hydrocarbon like propane and butane.
(c) Absence of Hydrogen sulphide hence called sweet gas.
(d) Generally available in piping quality ie can be supplied directly to pipeline.

India being the third largest producer of coal has rich potential of CBM. The available quality varies with the quality of coal, its depth and age. As a result the CBM present in coal beds varies between 3-16m3/ton of coal. Exploration and development of CBM is still in preliminary stage due to:
(a) Lack of latest technology
(b) Lack of expertise and experience
(c) Pervasive perception that commercial viability of exploitation and utilization of Methane is doubtful.

**USES**
CBM has the potential similar to natural gas and LPG. Hence it finds a wide range of
applicability that include:
(a) Can be used as auto fuel.
(b) Replace domestic LPG.
(c) Industrial purpose as calorific value is similar to natural gas.

In the era of shortage of conventional sources of energy CBM is an emerging non-conventional source of energy that can ensure energy security. India should make a more determined effort for prospecting CBM. This will attract foreign collaboration in exploration and production of CBM.

Q-What do you understand by India’s stance of Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) at climate change negotiations? Do you support this argument? Critically comment

India has been vociferously advocating Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) at all climate change negotiations.

This means climate change will have adverse impact on us all irrespective on national boundary, hence it’s a common burden for all to address it. But the share of burden will depend upon ‘historic emission’ i.e. developed countries being the major polluters historically and even now, they must take the lead.

India has been backed by other developing nations, small island countries and Least Developing Countries (LDC). India’s stand is justifiable for following reasons:

• India and other developing countries need to industrialise further and faster to eradicate poverty, unemployment etc. Accepting commitment on equal footing with developed nations will retard our development.

• Most of the pollutants found in the atmosphere were emitted by developed nations during last two centuries. Even now, US has an annual per capita CO2 emission of
20 ton and for India it is only 1.7 ton. Hence major responsibility should fall upon them.

• Developed countries have the required resources and technology to invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

• Small island nations and LDCs can do very little to combat climate change, but they will the first and worst sufferer of a problem, they did not create.

Moreover, India has also recognised its share of responsibility by making an ambitious voluntary commitment and to achieve that has enacted an National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Thus CBDR principle serves not only of our national interest but of the entire developing world, not compromising on global fight against climate change.

S&T developments and everyday applications & effects

Q-Discus the significance of recent student outreach initiative by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology in which scientists have to give lectures to school children in India.

Answer

The recent student outreach initiative by the Union ministry is aimed at inculcating interest towards science education among the students.

The initiative aims to brings students in direct contact with scientists. This contact will rekindle the otherwise diminishing interest towards the science education. Student will get an opportunity to discuss their doubts and align their intellectual reasoning on right track.

The initiative will also glamorize the science career that remains secluded in the confines of research laboratories. Students will have an opportunity to interact and determine the career prospect of science based career.
Outreach initiative will develop a culture of science education among youths. This interaction process will benefit not only students but also the scientist community. A child in them which they have lost in pursuit of scientific excellence will be born again. This will not only synergies them but will also bring more social relevance especially in the areas of interest of children, in their research.

Developing scientific endeavor is also a fundamental duty. Thus, the initiative will help students to assimilate a fundamental duty from the initial stage of their development.

Linkages of Organised crime and Terrorism

Q-Critically discuss how famous terrorist organisations are financed around the world.
Answer)

Terrorist financing refers to the method by which terrorist arrange funds to sponsor funds by lawful or unlawful method to carry out terrorist activities. Terrorists around the world are always in dire need of funds for
A> Salaries
B> Food and subsistence
C> Weapons
D> Training, travel and logistics

Following are the methods for financing terrorism:-
1. Financial support:- These includes donation, fund raising campaign. Financial support may also come nation or national or international groups that support their cause or are liable of benefit directly or indirectly. Charities and non-governmental organizations (NGO) remain a major problem in the terrorist financing arena. LTTE was financed by Indian Tamils, Terrorist in Punjab were financed by NRIs in US and UK.
2. Revenue generating activities:- this includes series of economic activities mostly
illegal which includes
a. Kidnapping and extortion:- It is the most easy way of financing by kidnapping foreign and native people
b. Piracy:- piracy of software, music and movie CD are easy to setup funding operations.
c. Drug Trafficking:- It is most reliable source of finance as global narcotics demand is growing, Taliban and extremist in India’s North east are financed by drug sale.
d. Illegal sale of mineral resources :- terrorist in Congo thrive on sale of Coltan mineral.
e. Hedge funds in Stock market
f. Recently newer sources of financing includes credit card/ cheque fraud, hacking.

Safe havens, failed states and state sponsors continue to represent crucial sources of support for terrorist organisations today. Safe havens and wider cases of weak jurisdictional control, state tolerance or support of terrorist organisations are also important in how terrorists move and use finance, in addition to their role in raising terrorist funds By stopping these financing activities, the terrorists organisations and their associated activities can be shut down.

Linkages between Development & spread of Extremism

Q-Critically comment on various strategies adopted by the union and state governments to deal with the left wing extremism problem.

Answer)

1. central government has a Naxal Management Division that provides funds, additional security forces, logistics and coordinates between states.

2. Integrated Action Plan(IAP) - to increase inter-state coordination
   1. in 88 identified districts.
   2. All the resources like planning, intelligence, etc., should integrate [to fight Naxalism].
   3. There should be one centre from where all information regarding Naxalism should be disseminated to the States.
   4. There should be some long-term strategy, which will be decided together. So far, there is no success in this coordination
5. **Extension for 4 more years.**

6. Physical Infra facilities like school buildings, anganwadi centers, rural roads, panchayat buildings, community halls and irrigation works were given priority where as social investment in health care, Sanitation and water supplies is very less

7. now under consideration for merging into BRGF

8. Payment of MGNREGA wages in cash has been allowed under IAP for selected tribal and backward districts to obviate payment delays where outreach of banks/post-offices is inadequate.

3. **Implementation of IAP.**

1. Rural Development Min. wants to do that through local bodies where as Home Min. wants to carry it through District admin which will help in increasing the credibility of Govt. in tribal areas.

2. **Existing model : 30 crore/district through a 3-membered district-level cmt(District Magistrate, SP, District Forest Officer).**

3. Home and Finance ministries are in favour of existing model while PC and Rural Development ministry are advocating to spend atleast half of the amount through local bodies and representatives. Home ministry pointed out that in most villages local bodies are either missing or lying defunct, while in some places panchayat members were either cooperating with Naxals or were not helping local admin. due to fear of Maoists.

4. **Army recruitment to keep youths off Maoism.**

5. **Programme "Roshini" in 24 most critical LW extremism affected districts.**

1. Provides beneficiaries aged between 18-35 years with requisite training for the trade or job chosen through public-private partnerships in the fields of tailoring, construction, mobile repairing, nursing and retail.

2. **Pro-actively covers Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs) on priority basis.**

3. Funded by Central and state govs. in the ratio of 75:25
4. Similar to "Himayat" being run in J&K

6. CAP (Civic Action Programme):
   1. allows CAPFs (Central Armed Paramilitary Forces) to carry out developmental programmes in 9 LWE affected states under the project "Winning Hearts and Minds" by spending on physical and social infrastructure.
   2. It was tweaked to make it "individual-oriented" rather than "project oriented" as this approach will help in bridging the gap b/n locals and security personnel more efficiently.

Disasters & Disaster Management

Q-Examine how technology can be used to manage natural disasters. Illustrate with examples.
Technology forms the core of any development in the modern era. Application of it simplifies the work and enables to address the issue at the expanded scale in less time. Disasters similarly can be mitigated and faced with much ease if technology is applied in the right way.

PRE DISASTER
• Coordination of the early warning system with various agencies of the country. Like tsunami warning system and earthquake warning system
• Weather forecast by the IMT can address the issue of drought and floods.
• The use of ICT can ease following above norms.
• Having advanced surveillance techniques can give effective feedbacks.

DURING DISASTERS
• Targeted mapping techniques, can identify the severe hit areas.
• Identifying the debris and waste materials are required for urgent rescue efforts. Can be achieved through thermal imaging glasses.

POST DISASTER
• Rescue rehabilitation can be effectively done.
• Database can be formed for the displaced people through the use of ICT.
• Communication forms the vital part, for keeping in constant touch in the field as well as the head office.

Leveraging the use of satellite technology, radio communication can be a boon and added advantage to the above measures. Innovative machines and transport vehicles can make the operation swift.

Examples from successful countries as well as the Phailin example can be emulated countrywide.